(b) The type of works taken up under these schemes like dug-wells, minor irrigation, soil & water conservation agro-horticulture, watershed projects, afforestation, link roads etc., have definitely direct and indirect positive impact on agricultural growth in the rural areas. However, no specific study has been conducted to quantify the exact impact of assets created under these schemes on agricultural growth.

(c) Under JRY 10% of the funds provided during a year can be spent on the maintenance of assets. The responsibility of assets created under EAS is of the State Government concerned. The individual assets created under IAY and MWS are to be maintained by the beneficiaries themselves.

(d) No such targets of asset creation under various rural works programmes have been fixed for the next five years.

Rural development during the Eighth Plan

109. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total Central outlay during the Eighth Five Year Plan for rural development;

(b) what is its ratio to GDP; and

(c) the number of persons who crossed the poverty line as a result of rural development, employment and poverty alleviation proprammes during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) to (c) As per the Eighth Five Year Plan document, the approved Central Sector outlay for the Rural Development was Rs. 30,000 crores at 1991-92 prices. The GDP at factor cost for the total 8th Plan was estimated at Rs. 30,69,138 crores at 1991-92 prices.

The approved Central Sector outlay of Rs. 30,000 crores for Rural Development Sector is 0.98% of GDP at factor cost of Rs. 30,69,138 (at 1991-92 prices). However the actual central outlay for rural development for the Eighth Plan would be greater than the approved outlay of Rs. 30,000 crores and the figures for the GDP at factor cost may also change.

As per the Lakdawala Expert Committee Report on Poverty Estimate, in 1987-88, 39.09% people were below poverty line in rural areas while in 1993-94, the percentage of people below poverty line declined to 37.27%.

100% coverage for safe drinking water under Basic Minimum Services Programme

110. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 100% coverage of provision of safe drinking water in rural and urban areas has been declared under the Government Basic Minimum Services Programme;

(b) by when this programme will be fully implemented; and

(c) whether there are any yearly plans for this?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The programme is likely to be implemented by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(c) Yearly plans are drawn up by the States/UTs based on the availability of annual Plan outlays.

Drinking water in Keonjhar district of Orissa